Cultural organisations getting grants from Government

1447. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Little Theatre Group, Shri Ram Centre for Art and Culture, Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre, Parvatiya Kala Kendra, Brechtian Mirror and Delhi Art Theater in Delhi based and Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, Ahmedabad, Mamta Shankar Ballet, Calcutta are getting grants from Government;

(b) if so, whether there is any machinery to keep a watch on the said institutions|groups for utilisation of those grants;

(c) if so, the details theerof;

(d) what is the number of performances these institutions|groups are supposed to stage in a year; and

(e) what are the details of shows staged during last three years. group institution--wise, alongwith the names of plays|ballets and dates of their performances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme of financial assistance to dance, drama ensembles, there is an Expert Committee for reviewing their performance and identifying groups for grant under the scheme. The grant is sanctioned subject to proper working and submission of utilisation certificate duly supported with statement of accounts duly certified by a firm of Chartered Accountant for the purpose of grant paid to them in preceeding year.

(d) No such hard and fast ceilings has been stipulated under the scheme. The institutions|groups should determine the quality of their teaching and performances and contribution to enrich the cultural life of the country or regine where they are functioning.

(e) The information is being collected from these institutions/groups. It will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Environmental Clearance of Projects of Kerala

1448. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new hydro-electric and irrigation projects of Kerala were cleared after May, 1990 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the projects of Kerala not returned without being cleared from January, 1990?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kuttiyadi Hydroelectric Project Extension as been accorded environmental clearance along with the approval for diversion of forest land for Power Development in Chalakkuddy basin Stage-II in July, 1990.

(c) No project referred for clearance since January, 1990 awaits decision.

Degradation of forests in different States States

1449. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the rate at which the forests are being degraded annually in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken to develop those degraded forest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No estimate has been made of the extent of degradation in the country, State-wise.

(c) Stpes taken to develop these degraded forests involve protection of such forests from grazing, fires, encroachment and restriction on fellings especially in hilly areas. An area of 9 million hectares of degraded land is targetted for regeneration during Eighth Five Year Plan by suitable reafforestaion prorgamme.

Pollution Caused by Cement Factory in Rajgangpur in Orissa

1450. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cement plant at Rajgangpur in Orissa has not taken adequate air pollution control measures;

(b) wheher the entire Rajgangpur and its adjoining areas are affected due to air pollution; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the cement plant for not taking adequate pollution control measures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s Orissa Cement at Rajgangpur in Orissa has taken all the necessary air polluton control measures to control air pollution and are meeting the emission standard. The air pollution in that area has decreased considerably after the cement plant has installed the appropriate pollution control devices.

(c) Does not arise.

Irregularities in plantation programme in Orissa

1451. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale irregularities taking place in the plantation programme in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop such irregularities; and

(c) what are the details of different afforestation programme undertaken by Government in that State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) No specific instances of large scale irregularities in the plantation programme in Orissa have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government is implementing the Social Forestry Project in all the districts of Orissa, with assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The main components of the project are establishment of village woodlots, reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, farming for the rural poor and farm forestry. In addition, afforestation and social forestry activities are being carried out in Orissa under the Wastelands Development Programme, the Rural Employment Programme and the Drought Prone Areas Programme of the Central Government.

Felling of tress and smuggling of Forest Wealth from Phulbani and Kalahandi Districts of Orissa

1452. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT ANE FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale felling of trees and smuggling of valuable species of plants are takin place in Orissa, particularly in Phulban and Kalahandi districts; and